

Message Text

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USIAC

E.O. 11652: NA

SUBJ: CITY OF CLEVELAND EXHIBIT FOR LJUBLJANA

1. BEARING A LETTER OF INTRODUCTION FROM CLEVELAND MAYOR PERK, CALLING HIM A MEMBER OF "THE MAYOR'S CABINET AND DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF THE CITY OF CLEVELAND, OHIO" DR. VLADIMIR J. RUS RECENTLY VISITED PAO, "AT REQUEST OF MAYOR PERK," TO DISCUSS POSSIBILITIES OF USIS COOPERATION WITH CLEVELAND IN ASSEMBLING EXHIBITS ABOUT CLEVELANDERS OF SLOVENIAN DESCENT, TO BE SHOWN IN LJUBLJANA.

2. THE PROBLEM IS ONE OF DOMESTIC POLITICS. PERK HAS BEEN VISITED TWICE IN THE LAST YEAR BY LJUBLJANA MAYOR KOVIC, AND THE YUGOSLAV SLOVENIANS HAVE RECENTLY MOUNTED A VERY SUCCESSFUL EXHIBIT AND ACCOMPANYING PROGRAM IN CLEVELAND. KOVIC NOW WANTS CLEVELAND TO RECIPROCATATE. PERK IS HAPPY TO DO SO, BUT FEARS THAT HE WILL INCUR THE WRATH OF THE SLOVENIAN POLITICAL REFUGEES STILL ACTIVE IN HIS AREA. RUS ADDED THAT THE YUGOSLAV EXHIBIT WAS A BIG SUCCESS IN CLEVELAND, AND DID NOT EVOKE ANY OPPOSITION FROM SLOVENIAN GROUPS.

3. PERK FEELS THAT THE AGENCY COULD BE OF ASSISTANCE IN GIVING THE EXHIBIT THE SORT OF ORIENTATION WHICH WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE TO HIS SLOVENIANS AND BE SUCCESSFUL IN

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LJUBLJANA. HE HAS MINOR RESOURCES TO DO THIS, AND WE

SUSPECT THAT HE WOULD LIKE SOME FINANCIAL BACKING FROM THE AGENCY, ALTHOUGH WE DID NOT GO INTO THIS QUESTION WITH RUS.

4. FROM OUR POINT OF VIEW, THE IDEA IS SUFFICIENTLY INTRIGUING TO BRING IT TO AGENCY'S ATTENTION WITH REQUEST THAT AGENCY CONTACT RUS SOMETIME AFTER AUG 1 AND ASK CHRIS HENZE TO VISIT CLEVELAND AND DISCUSS PROJECT. HENZE AND USC LJUBLJANA WERE MENTIONED PROMINENTLY IN THE YUGOSLAV SLOVENIAN EXHIBIT IN CLEVELAND, SO HE IS WELL KNOWN THERE. THIS WOULD ALSO BE GOOD WAY FOR DOROTHY SLAK TO BREAK INTO PROGRAM, IF THE TWO COULD VISIT CLEVELAND TOGETHER.

5. WE CANNOT JUDGE INTERNAL US POLITICAL RAMIFICATIONS FROM THIS DISTANCE, BUT, IF PROJECT SEEMS FEASIBLE USIA AND DEPARTMENT, WE WISH TO ENCOURAGE IT.
CATHERMAN

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